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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 26.2.A41/B/USA

In re Application of:

Jackie R. Gust et al.

Serial No. 09/480,044

Filed 01/10/2000

For ELECTRIC DRIVE
RIDING MOWER

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## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the Applicants wish to bring the prior art references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office. These prior art patents, in combination with the prior art patents already of record, raise questions under 35 USC 103 about the patentability of the proposed Counts A and B of the Request for Interference dated 10/26/2001. The 103 patentability questions raised by the prior art patents are in addition to the 102 questions raised by the Unique Mobility/Toro prototype mower. The PTO should consider whether alternative 102 and 103 rejections are warranted.

Before reviewing the newly cited prior art patents, the Applicants wish to specifically review two prior art patents of record, namely U.S. Patent 2,057,417 to Clapper and U.S.

RECEIVED OIPE/IAP Patent 5,406,778 to Lamb, both of which are summarized in the <u>Background of the Invention</u> of the above-identified patent application. Figs. 12 and 13 of Clapper show cutting reels on a riding mower that are electrically powered from a generator driven by the mower's engine. Lamb shows a battery operated mower where both the traction drive and the cutting reels are electrically driven from batteries only.

The prior art patents newly cited herein may be briefly summarized as follows:

U.S. Patent 4,113,045 to Downing, Jr. discloses a mower in Fig. 4 in which the cutting blades 86, 88, 90 and 92 are driven by electric motors 78, 80, 82 and 84 and the traction wheels are driven by electric wheel motors 22. In this application, all the electric motors are A.C. motors electrically driven by an alternator 16 driven by a prime mover 12. No batteries are specifically disclosed in Downing.

Published Japanese Patent Application 4-166475 to Fujihara discloses a riding mower having electric motors 7 for driving the traction wheels 8. The electric motors 7 receive electricity from a battery 12 carried on the mower. The mower also includes an internal combustion engine 1 that directly drives the cutting blade 4. There is no electric drive to cutting blade 4.

While no connection is specifically shown in Fujihara between engine 1 and battery 12, mowers of this type having both an engine and a battery, such as mowers with electric starters, would almost always use an alternator on the engine to recharge the battery during operation of the engine. Thus, given this typical arrangement of having the engine recharge the battery where both are present on a mower, one could reasonably find that Fujihara discloses to one of ordinary skill in the mower art the use of a hybrid electric drive where both an alternator and battery together

power the electric motors 7 connected to the traction wheels 8.

Copies of both Downing and Fujihara as well as a complete translation of Fujihara into English are enclosed herewith.

It is respectfully requested that the PTO consider the patentability of Counts A and B of the Request for Interference dated 10/26/2001 in view of Clapper, Lamb, Downing and Fujihara as well as the other prior art patents of record or that may be hereafter cited by the PTO. There is no administrative economy in continuing to a decision on the Request for Interference or in devoting the resources needed for an Interference if Counts A and B are not patentable.

In addition, the potential application of the Unique Mobility/Toro prototype mower to Counts A and B must also be decided by the PTO independently of the questions raised by the prior art patents. In this regard, note the accompanying paper entitled SUBMISSION OF DVD CONTAINING UNIQUE MOBILITY SUMMER 1989 VIDEOTAPE.

The Applicant wishes to have the prior art contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement considered even though such Statement is being submitted after the first Office Action. Accordingly, please charge the \$180 fee for submission of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and any other fees that may be due on account of such submission, or credit any overpayment, to

Deposit Account No. 20-1315 of The Toro Company.

Respectfully submitted,

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PTO/SB/08A (07-05)

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Substitute for form 1449(PT)

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SUPPLEMENTAL

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete it Known		•
Application Number	09/480,044	
Filing Date	01/10/2000	· · · · · ·
First Named Inventor	Jackie R. Gust	
Art Unit		
Examiner Name		
Attorney Docket Number	26.2.A41/B/USA	

	U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number  Number-Kind Code <sup>2 (f known)</sup>	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		<sup>US-</sup> 4,113,045	09-12-1978	Downing, Jr.	Fig. 4
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document  Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
			00 40 4000			$\vdash$
		JP 4-166,475	06-12-1992	Fujihara		
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Examiner	Date	
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Signature	Considered	

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="https://www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>8</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete use of the complete displication form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.